

Party is legitimizing the President's assault on our democracy is infuriating and deeply, deeply wrong.

The President is not merely bringing forward well-founded legal challenges. He is not simply taking advantage of the ability to request a recount in States where one is possible. He is declaring himself to be the winner of an election that he lost. He is claiming to win States that he lost. His legal team is filing scores of frivolous, unsubstantiated lawsuits. He is undermining faith in our elections and poisoning our democracy during one of the most delicate moments in our constitutional system, something we treasure: the peaceful transfer of power.

The President has fired the Secretary of Defense, threatening the continuity of our national security policy because he is having a temper tantrum. Not only does this put at risk a smooth transition in one of the most sensitive and critical areas of our government, it creates an opening for our adversaries to take advantage of instability and inexperience.

The current Attorney General of the United States has made a show of authorizing Federal probes into supposed election fraud, lending a veneer of false credence to the President's delusions. It violates the longstanding tradition of avoiding even the appearance of law enforcement interference in our elections. Almost immediately, Attorney General Barr's decision prompted the Chief of the Justice Department's elections branch to resign in protest.

The Government Services Administrator, GSA, has still not signed the paperwork necessary for the Biden transition team to begin its work. And here in the Senate, the Republican leader and several Republican Members are trying to give their President air cover.

Yesterday, in the same breath that Leader McCONNELL celebrated the reelection of certain Republican Senators, he declined to congratulate the winner of the Presidential election because the election results have not been officially certified. The political right seems eager to celebrate the results it approves of while delaying judgment and casting doubt on the results it doesn't. Indeed, the Republican leader could not even mention two words, "Joe Biden," who, regardless of what Republican Senators may think, will be the next President of the United States.

Two Republican Members of this Chamber have called on their own secretary of state—a fellow Republican—to resign for no other apparent reason than the fact that President Trump did not win their State. They allege the secretary of state did not deliver honest and transparent elections. That is really a stunning charge in the United States of America. That is the kind of thing you hear about in banana republics and dishonest elections. Surely, U.S. Senators would have some evidence that in the world's premier—pre-

mier—democracy an entire State's election was not conducted "honestly," as they say. Surely, you must think that those Senators have incredible, substantial, and weighty proof of such a scandalous and alarming allegation, but you would wrong. Those two Senators provided no evidence—not even a shred—to back up their claims.

Three lonely Republican Senators—three in total—have congratulated the next President and Vice President of the United States on their victory and called on the Nation to come together. The rest have been silent or outright sympathetic toward the President's completely unsubstantiated claims of election fraud.

So look, here is where we are. Every major media outlet, including FOX News, has projected that Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States, and KAMALA HARRIS will be the next Vice President of the United States—not because the media declared them to be but because more than 76 million Americans voted them into office. There has been no evidence of widespread voter fraud or any indication that results might flip in not one but several States.

The country is ready to move on from 4 years of tumultuous and incompetent administration. The institutions of our government will ensure it on January 20, no matter what the current President claims. But they cannot ensure faith in our democracy in the hearts and minds of the American people. That is a project for both parties to confer legitimacy on an election in which, yes, half the country will be disappointed but after which the entire country must pull together.

Every day that goes by without the Republican Party acknowledging and accepting the results of the election is another day Americans' faith in our democracy declines.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on Veterans Day, tomorrow, we will all proudly observe Veterans Day, a chance to honor our veterans—heroes who come from every walk of life, every color and creed, joined by a common love of country and an uncommon love for their fellow Americans. This week, we say again thank you, thank you, thank you to every veteran for their service.

Like so many things this year, Veterans Day will be different. We cannot come together as we would normally do. We hold in our thoughts and prayers the veterans across the United States whose lives have been touched by this awful disease, and we give special thanks to many veterans who work as teachers, healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, and community leaders—the very heroes, in a different sense, who are keeping our communities going during these tough times. We in the Senate have a solemn responsibility to make sure they continue to get the help they need.

Finally, it is always a little different when we observe a Veterans Day in the aftermath of an election. We must never forget our freedoms—to speak freely, to assemble peaceably, to choose our leaders, and forge our destiny—have been secured, time and time again, by the sacrifice of Americans who have worn the uniform.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James Ray Knepp II, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON KNEPP NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Knepp nomination?

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from California

(Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 226 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Blackburn	Gardner	Peters
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Reed
Braun	Hassan	Risch
Brown	Hoeven	Roberts
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Capito	Inhofe	Rounds
Carper	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Jones	Sasse
Collins	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Coons	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Loeffler	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	McSally	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	
Feinstein	Paul	

NAYS—24

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schumer
Blumenthal	King	Smith
Booker	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Markley	Udall
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—12

Alexander	Heinrich	Sinema
Cantwell	Moran	Sullivan
Harris	Murray	Tester
Hawley	Schatz	Young

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from South Dakota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, before I begin, I want to acknowledge the tremendous news released yesterday that early results of a COVID vaccine are showing a greater than 90 percent rate of effectiveness. This is great news and a testament to the innovative power of the private sector and the ef-

forts of Congress and the Trump administration to expedite the development of COVID vaccines.

The trial for this vaccine will continue, and FDA approval will be required, but these early results are very, very encouraging. It has been a tough year for Americans and people all over the world, but hopefully this is a sign that the light at the end of the tunnel is coming.

2020 ELECTIONS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, we are now a week on from the election, but there are still a lot of outstanding races to determine. Votes are still being counted or will soon be recounted in many States. The Presidential race has yet to be certified, and it is important to remember that while media outlets can predict a winner, official results do come later, and there are still House and Senate races that have yet to be decided.

One thing is clear, though: The blue wave that Democrat pollsters and the media predicted was coming did not arrive. Americans emphatically did not endorse the socialist aims of the far left. Instead, they sent a much more moderate message. And I hope that when all the votes are counted and the outcomes of all the races are determined, Democrats will be able to overcome the virulent partisanship that has characterized their behavior over the past 4 years and work with Republicans to deliver results for the American people.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, tomorrow we celebrate Veterans Day, the day set aside to honor all those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

This year, we observed the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and our Nation's World War II veterans, the veterans of the "greatest generation," have been on my mind a lot.

Sixteen million Americans served in World War II—16 million. These veterans were a fixture in our lives. So many Americans grew up with a dad or a grandfather or a grandmother who had served in World War II. I was one of them.

My favorite veteran, my dad, was a World War II pilot who flew Hellcats off the deck of the USS *Intrepid* in the Pacific. I came to know the values of the "greatest generation" through my dad—humility, patriotism, quiet service.

These warriors who helped save the world didn't brag about their achievements. They deflected praise. If they hailed any exploits, it was those of their comrades. My dad won the Distinguished Flying Cross—or, I should say, received the Distinguished Flying Cross, but that is not what he talked about. He did, however, talk about Cecil Harris, one of South Dakota's aces, whose advice for a deft maneuver

saved my dad's life during a dogfight. It was a move straight out of "Top Gun," only decades before the movie.

My dad always talked about how South Dakota is the only State with two aces with more than 20 shootdowns during World War II. And he talked about the other pilots in his squadron and praised their character and their service.

As I said, these veterans of the "greatest generation" have been a fixture in our lives for a long time. But 75 years on from the war, their numbers are dwindling and dwindling quickly.

My dad died in August of this year at the age of 100. We lose more and more of these veterans every day, and they will be sorely missed, but their legacy lives on in the generations of veterans that have followed them.

In every age and every era, men and women have stepped forward to answer the same call that the "greatest generation" answered. And in every era, those men and women, the men and women of the U.S. military, have embodied the values that characterized men like my dad—humility, courage, love of country, self-sacrifice, a love of freedom and for their fellow man.

Service in the military was once commonplace. But in an age when only a small percentage of the population serves, we need to ensure that we don't forget the vital role of our Armed Forces and the price our men and women in uniform pay to ensure that all of us can live in freedom. It has been said 10,000 times—but it is no less true the ten thousandth and first time—that we live in freedom every day because of the men and women of the U.S. military. We owe them a debt we cannot hope to repay. But on Veterans Day and every day, we can remember to say thank you.

I cannot close without mentioning the men and women I have met who have served and are serving—in particular, the members of the South Dakota National Guard and the airmen at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

Right now, members of the South Dakota National Guard are deployed in support of Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa. The South Dakota Guard also recently served a rotation of deployments to Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve and to the Middle East to support coalition forces. Like many of their counterparts across the country, they have also been a part of the domestic coronavirus response.

At Ellsworth, the B-1 bombers of the 28th Bomb Wing continue to demonstrate their flexible, global reach through Bomber Task Force deployments. The Bomber Task Force missions strengthen our continued coordination with NATO allies in Europe and assert America's commitment to security and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

From the Baltics to the South China Sea to the Middle East, the airmen at Ellsworth Air Force Base continue to